

California High-Cost Fund-A Administrative Committee
Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at 10:00 am

Venues:

California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Ave., Room 3204
San Francisco, CA 94102

Telephone Conference Phone Bridge:

Access: 415-655-0002

Participant/Access Code: 2490 806 1016

Attendees:

Present – Committee Members

- Patrick Høglund (CPUC, Public Advocates Office) (Chairperson)
- David Clark (Sebastian and LEC representative) (Vice Chair)
- Stephen Kalish, Alternate Committee Member (Community Based Organization)

Present – Others

- Felix Robles (CPUC, Communications Division)
- Hannah Steiner (CPUC, Communications Division)
- Nancy Lee (CPUC, Communications Division) (via Webex)
- Lucia Magaña (CPUC, Communications Division) (via Webex)
- Sindy Yun (CPUC, Legal Division) (via Webex)
- Lalaine Semana (CPUC, Fiscal Office) (via Webex)
- Bixia Ye (CPUC, Public Advocates Office) (via Webex)
- Patrick Rosvall (BRB Law)
- Eric Votaw (Ducor)

Minutes:

1. Introductions – Patrick Høglund, Chairperson

This is our first in-person meeting since the pandemic started in March 2020. Attendees introduced themselves. Patrick Høglund observed that a quorum was present, meeting commenced at 10:02 am.

2. Announcements –

Hannah Steiner reported that Matt Kingsley, our Community Based Organization (CBO) Primary AC Member from Rural County Representatives of California has resigned from this committee.

3. Public Comments - none

4. Review and Approval of the March 9, 2022, Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes remained unchanged. Patrick Høglund made a motion to approve the minutes. David Clark seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to approve the March 9, 2022 minutes. The adopted minutes will be posted on the CHCF-A AC webpage.

5. Liaison Staff Reports:

a. Fiscal Report –

Lalaine Semana presented the quarterly financial report as of April 30, 2022, stating the budget appropriation balance for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 is \$69 million; total revenue is \$27 million. The total cash available as of April 30, 2022 is \$16.4 million; total cash available as of May 23, 2022 is \$15.8 million.

b. Legal Report –

Sindy Yun reported that Legislation SB 857 to extend the CHCF-A Program for another five years to January 2028 is expected to pass. The current program sunset date is January 2023.

c. Communications Division –

Felix Robles mentioned that in the Fiscal report that Lalaine cited above as of May 23, 2022 we have a total cash balance of \$15.8M. That amount is about a five month reserve that we have in the A Fund, which is an appropriate amount for any of these funds to have in reserve. Mr. Robles indicated at the rate that our Intrastate revenue is being reported, we are collecting a commensurate amount that is sufficient to cover the A Fund. We don't anticipate much of a change in total cash balance going forward.

Mr. Robles reported that CD is currently working on three General Rate Case (GRC) submitted by Sierra, Siskiyou, and Volcano on November 1, 2021. The public participation hearings were held remotely on April 11th for Sierra, April 12th for Siskiyou and April 13th for Volcano. Administrative Law Judge Patricia Miles is the assigned judge for all three GRCs. The evidentiary hearings are scheduled for Sierra: July 18th - 22nd; Siskiyou: July 28th – August 2nd; and Volcano: August 8th – 12th.

6. Teleconferencing Rules –

Sindy Yun gave an overview on the Teleconferencing Rules for Advisory Committee Meetings. There are two teleconference options for conducting advisory committee meetings pursuant to the Bagley-Keene Opening Meeting Act in Government Code § 11230 *et seq.*

Link to the Bagley-Keene Act here:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&division=3.&title=2.&part=1.&chapter=1.&article=9.

Option 1 is in Govt Code Section 11123; the following are the key requirements:

1. Each remote location must be identified/listed in the meeting notice.
2. Each remote location must be identified/listed in the meeting agenda.
3. Each remote location must post the meeting agenda.
4. Each remote location must be accessible to the public (***) this would prevent committee members from calling-in from a car).
5. At least one member of the committee must be physically present at the main meeting location.

Option 2 is in Govt Code section 11123.5; the following are the key requirements:

1. Identify who will be calling -in/attending remotely at least 24 hours before the meeting by posting a notice on the Web – 24 hour notice rule.
2. A quorum of the members must be physically present at the main location.
3. Each remote location does not need to be disclosed in the meeting notice, does not need to be publicly accessible and does not need to post agenda.

7. FY 2023-24 Budget Proposal (Due June 1)

Hannah Steiner presented the budget spreadsheet and explained the projections and proposed appropriation for FY 2023-24. Hannah recommended that the CHCF-A local assistance and state operations appropriations for FY 2023-24 remain the same as for FY 2022-23. The proposed appropriation is higher than projected expenditures.

David Clark is not permitted to vote because he represents a company receiving funds from CHCF-A. CD's proposed CHCF-A budget of \$49.352 million for FY 2023-24 was adopted by the committee reflecting Patrick Hoglund's and Stephen Kalish's votes, Dave Clark abstained. The committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed budget.

8. CHCF-A (R.11-11-007) Rulemaking Issues – Questions, Comments

Patrick Rosvall stated the Small LECs filed an appeal, the case has been submitted, currently waiting for the court to set a hearing date which most likely will be in the third quarter of this year.

9. Update on the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) – Small LECs

David Clark stated they are trying their best to get the information out to people who can qualify for the Affordable Connective Program (ACP), mainly low income customers. Kerman is also participating in the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) Program. They have a number of customers enrolled in the ACP and ECF Program. The ECF Program is a better program because it's free for eligible students and is run through the schools.

Eric Votaw stated Ducor has been actively promoting the ACP through meetings with the school district/parents. Those meetings were conducted in English and in Spanish. Ducor currently have quite a number of students that have fiber internet connections as a result of those meetings.

10. New agenda items for next meeting

- a. Update on GRC Hearings
- b. Annual Report
- c. Standard agenda items

11. Date and time for next meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday August 18, 2022 1:00 pm.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 am.